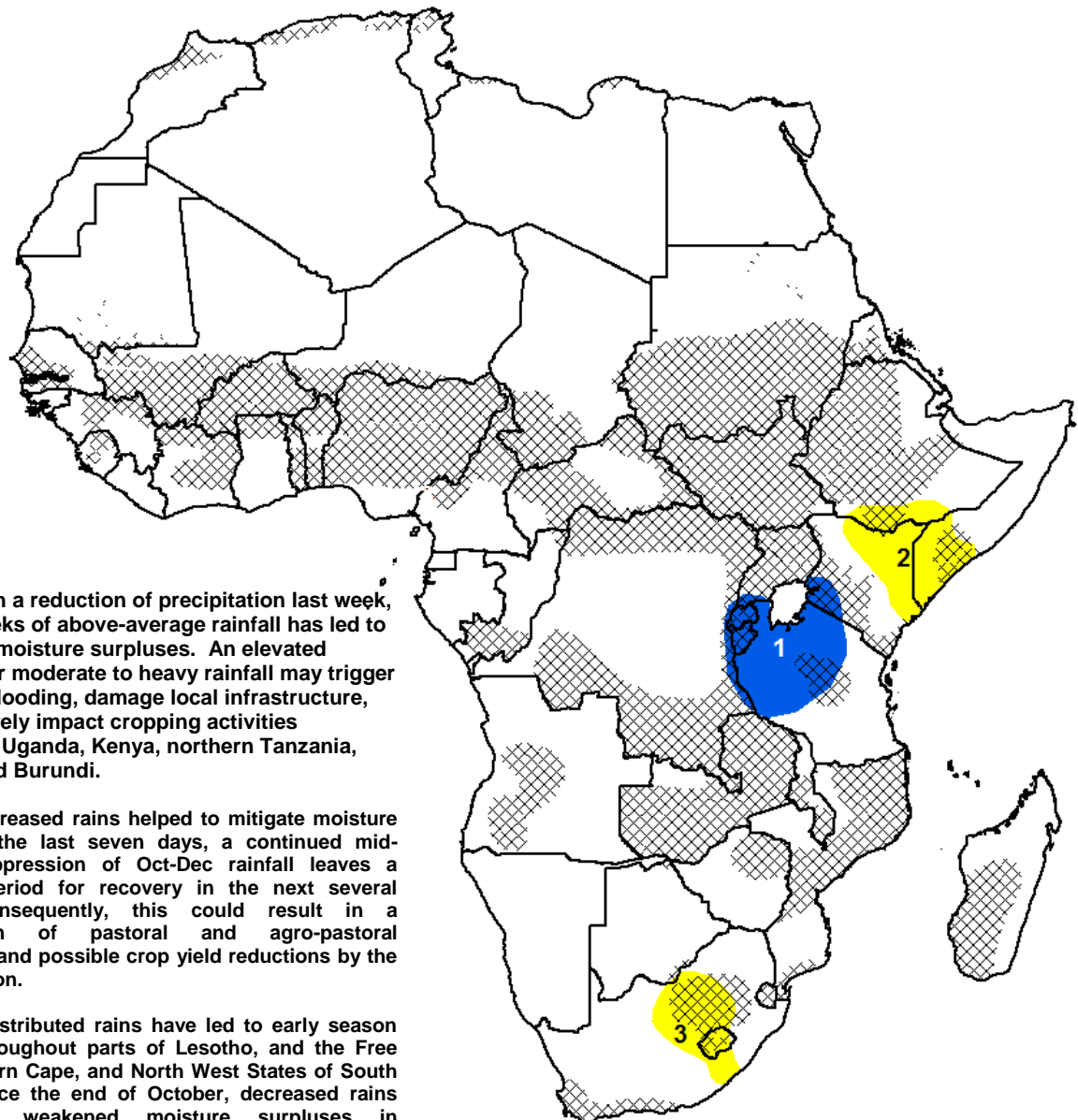


Climate Prediction Center's Africa Hazards Outlook For USAID / FEWS-NET November 22 – November 29, 2012

- Increased rainfall during the last week helped to improve mid-season dryness across Kenya and Somalia, however moderate seasonal deficits remain for many local areas.

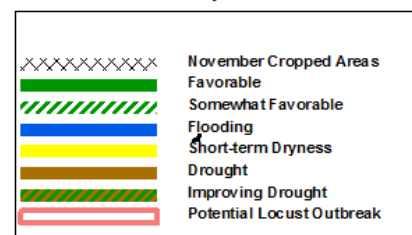


1) Even with a reduction of precipitation last week, several weeks of above-average rainfall has led to significant moisture surpluses. An elevated potential for moderate to heavy rainfall may trigger additional flooding, damage local infrastructure, and negatively impact cropping activities throughout Uganda, Kenya, northern Tanzania, Rwanda and Burundi.

2) While increased rains helped to mitigate moisture deficits in the last seven days, a continued mid-season suppression of Oct-Dec rainfall leaves a lessened period for recovery in the next several weeks. Consequently, this could result in a deterioration of pastoral and agro-pastoral conditions, and possible crop yield reductions by the end of season.

3) Poorly distributed rains have led to early season dryness throughout parts of Lesotho, and the Free State, Eastern Cape, and North West States of South Africa. Since the end of October, decreased rains have also weakened moisture surpluses in neighboring states in the north and east of country which may impede the development of crops that were planted early in the season.

Legend is very general, please see numbered descriptions for details.



Rains help mitigate dryness in Kenya, Somalia, but mid-season moisture deficits remain in the region.

During the last seven days, moderate to locally heavy amounts of precipitation were received throughout parts of Kenya, Somalia and Ethiopia. Although suppressed rains were forecast, many parts of the Jubba and Shabelle region of southern Somalia saw the return of seasonally heavy (25-75mm) rainfall during mid-November (**Figure 1**). For the second consecutive week, high rainfall amounts were observed across the Oromia and Somali region of Ethiopia. Further west, much lighter rainfall accumulations were observed across Uganda, southwestern Kenya, and areas neighboring the Lake Victoria region following several weeks of torrential, flood-inducing precipitation.

Over the last 30 days, many local areas in northeastern Kenya and southern Somalia have experienced less than half of their normal rainfall accumulation since mid-October. This seasonal departure of rainfall was associated with a two to three week dry spell in the region where little to no rainfall was received during a time where rains were expected (climatologically) to be near/at their maximum for the Oct-Dec season. An anomalously low number of rain days are reflected over southern Somalia and eastern Kenya where the greatest seasonal moisture deficits are observed (**Figure 2**). Due to the short length of season, this mid-season dry spell leaves a lessened period for a seasonal recovery of rains, which may negatively impact pastoral and agro-pastoral conditions, and possibly weaken crop production.

For the upcoming outlook period, little to no rainfall is forecast for much of southern Ethiopia, northeastern Kenya and southern Somalia. A continued absence of rainfall in late November is expected to strengthen moisture deficits for the season.

Early season dryness develops and expands throughout many regions of southern Africa.

While the development of early-season moisture deficits have been observed across portions of the Maize Triangle region of South Africa, other areas in the southern portion of the Africa continent are beginning to observe developing, broad-scale early-season dryness after a poor rainfall performance in November. Currently, there are very few areas where rainfall has been above-average during the last 30 days, leaving the majority of southern Africa experiencing 10-50mm rainfall deficits (**Figure 3**). The strongest negative rainfall anomalies have been felt in Lusaka, Central and Copperbelt provinces of Zambia, where seasonal rainfall is expected to be higher during late November.

For the next seven days, many regions in southern Africa are expecting to average to below-average amounts of rainfall, with the exception of enhanced precipitation in southern Angola, eastern Zambia and parts of South Africa.

Note: The hazards outlook map on page 1 is based on current weather/climate information and short and medium range weather forecasts (up to 1 week). It assesses their potential impact on crop and pasture conditions. Shaded polygons are added in areas where anomalous conditions have been observed. The boundaries of these polygons are only approximate at this continental scale. This product does not reflect long range seasonal climate forecasts or indicate current or projected food security conditions.

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